



GP 1732

7359-6-CON:TQH:158021

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Rodney Borst

Serial No. 10/051,566

Filed January 18, 2002

THERMOFORMED CONTAINER WITH
INWARDLY EXTENDING CUT LIP

Before the Examiner

Edmund Lee

Group Art Unit 1732

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on February 13, 2002

Thomas Q. Henry
Name of Registered Representative

Thomas Henry
Signature

February 13, 2002
Date of Signature

**SECOND
PRELIMINARY
AMENDMENT**

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified case. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add new claim 28 as follows:

--28. A method of vacuum thermoforming a container which includes an outer surface including an outwardly-projecting ridge, the container further including a base, side walls, and an inwardly-projecting cut lip, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a three-part mold defining a cavity conforming in shape to the outer surface of the container, the cavity including an undercut portion corresponding to the ridge of the container, the mold including separable first, second and third portions, the first portion

including a planar upper surface and an upper lip, the first portion defining an upper part of the undercut portion, the second portion defining a lower part of the undercut portion and further defining a surface corresponding to the side walls of the container, the first and second portions of the mold being separable along a part line corresponding to the outermost extent of the ridge of the container, the third portion defining a surface corresponding to the base of the container;

- (b) positioning a heated sheet of thermoplastic material over the mold;
- (c) drawing the heated sheet of thermoplastic material over the upper lip of the mold and down into the cavity and into the undercut portion of the mold;
- (d) allowing the sheet of thermoplastic material to cool below its glass transition temperature to assure that it will retain its shape;
- (e) cutting the thermoplastic material along the upper lip of the mold to separate the drawn thermoplastic material in the mold cavity from the remainder of the thermoplastic material, the separated, drawn thermoplastic material constituting the thermoformed container;
- (f) separating the first and second portions of the mold; and
- (g) removing the thermoformed container from the second and third portions of the mold.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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